

those families his promise in Psalm 34 that "the Lord is near to the broken-hearted."

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. CORTEZ MASTO). Morning business is closed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to executive session and resume consideration of the following nomination, which the clerk will report.

The bill clerk read the nomination of Sandra L. Thompson, of Maryland, to be Director of the Federal Housing Finance Agency for a term of five years.

Mr. MCCONNELL. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ROBB ELEMENTARY SCHOOL SHOOTING

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I just had heard the minority leader say he was sickened by what happened in Uvalde.

Tomorrow, we have a bill coming to the floor that addressed the last shooting, the one in Buffalo. Will he join us in allowing a debate and amendments to that bill that will address the gun plague in America?

Thoughts and prayers are not enough. We need action.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Michigan.

Ms. STABENOW. Madam President, I had originally, before yesterday, planned to speak today at length about the fact that in 36 days children across the country are going to lose healthy meals they have been getting in the summer, as well as meals during the school year, and schools are going to be put in a very difficult situation—up to one-third of the schools may not be able to offer school meals at all.

So that was my intent in coming to the floor, but after what happened, the horrible situation in Texas, 19 more children, a teacher, a grandma dying, now I wonder if it is how many more kids will be killed in the next 36 days.

We don't have to live like this. We don't have to live like this where we are begging for 8 more Republicans to join us, 52 of us, who want to make sure kids get healthy meals. We don't have to live like that, and we don't have to live in a situation where parents are afraid—where people are afraid

to go to their place of worship or they are afraid to go to the grocery store, where they are afraid to just live because of some random shooting by somebody who got a hold of a—of a gun, a military assault weapon or didn't have to go through a background check and went to a gun show or whatever it is, whatever it is that is causing the carnage in our country related to guns and mass shootings.

It is not happening in other countries—it is not happening in other countries, and they have as many challenges as we do. But in other countries, that may be somebody going into school with a knife and the kids get hurt, but they live. Here, it is assault weapons. It is shooting children indiscriminately in an elementary school. We don't have to live like this. We don't have to live like this.

The question is, how many Republicans would join us to save children's lives from gun violence? How many? Can we just get started? You know, Leader SCHUMER has put two bills on the calendar related to background checks: the bipartisan Background Checks Act—closing the gun show loophole, requiring background checks for gun purchases made through private unlicensed dealers—and the Enhanced Background Checks Act, which would provide a national background check system, enough time to thoroughly review gun sales.

Now, these are not controversial. Neither is feeding children by the way. These are not controversial. Ninety percent of the public says, duh, of course, of course.

Now, the folks that don't want us to do it are the folks that make the guns. They make a lot of money. They are trying to pit us against each other. They put out all kinds of crazy theories. They are funding our Republican colleagues to stop anything from happening because, God forbid, if the profits of the gun manufacturers would go down because maybe there were a few less guns that were on the street.

This is not rocket science. We know what to do. I grew up in a northern Michigan community surrounded by legal gun ownership—my own family, my friends, my relatives. You know when the assault weapon ban went in for 10 years, nobody in my family stopped hunting. Nobody in my family had to say, oh, well, we can't do what we want to do because military assault weapons aren't available.

That was put in by Democrats. It was then repealed by Republicans. And we saw violence—violent shootings that had gone down tremendously, suddenly go up. So there is a lot of different things that we could do. And the question is, will we come together on any of them? Will we start with comprehensive background checks? That is the question.

Will we have Republicans joining us? Every action we take—or inaction—relates to our values, and it relates to our will to do it.

We can do anything if we want to do it. I mean, last week we came together on this floor to address baby formula for the WIC program, and we did it together. It was great. One of the fastest things I have ever seen move through here, and I appreciate that. I appreciate Senator BOOZMAN joining me in that.

But why can't we then extend that, first of all, to making sure in the summer, kids get healthy food that they are going to start losing in 36 days and that during the school year we are supporting our schools to provide healthy meals for all of our children in a time of supply chain breakdowns, costs going up.

And what happens when we start hearing in the fall from those schools that have to stop all school meals because somehow we couldn't come together and prioritize feeding children?

And on top of that—I mean, I hate to say feeding children is, you know—all of this is important, but their lives—we can't even come together around basic commonsense measures that will begin to address what is happening with the random shootings and the killings of our babies, of our children. We can do better than this. We have to do better than this. We have to do better than this.

We only need 10 Republicans—we need 8 Republicans to help us feed healthy kids in the summer and on into the—give kids healthy meals this summer and in the fall, 8. We only need 10, we only need 10 Republicans to join us on background checks, closing the gun show loophole.

We don't need everybody. We don't need everybody. Some folks can go run and stand with the gun manufacturers and what has become incredibly extreme NRA dangerous positions.

Folks, we just need 10—10 people to stand up and go: This is too much. This has gone too far. We can do better than this.

Because if not now, what is the number? I would like to ask Leader MCCONNELL, what is the number?

How many children will he describe and how much sympathy will he show for dead children on the floor of the U.S. Senate before it is enough? How many? One hundred more? Two hundred more? A thousand more? When is it enough, when too many children have been killed? When is it enough?

It is past enough right now. We can do better than this for our kids, and I hope this is the moment that Republicans in the U.S. Senate will step up and join us.

THE CALENDAR

Ms. STABENOW. As if in legislative session, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of the following bills, en bloc: Calendar No. 185, H.R. 767; Calendar No. 186, H.R. 1170; Calendar No. 187, H.R. 1444, Calendar No. 189, S. 2932; Calendar No. 325, S. 3825; Calendar No.